

## 47 The Influence of Nicotine on CNS Arousal during the Menstrual Cycle

Dye, L., Sherwood, N. and Kerr, J. S.

Biopsychologie, Fakultät für Psychologie,  
Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Universitätsstr. 150, 4630 Bochum 1.

The Influence of Nicotine on CNS Arousal during the Menstrual Cycle.

Critical Flicker Fusion Threshold (CFFT), used as a measure of cortical activation, and prospective reports of menstrual distress were recorded in 47 women (30 non-smokers, 9 light smokers and 8 heavy smokers) at regular intervals during the menstrual cycle. A significant linear trend was found within the pooled CFFT data ( $P 0.0004$ ) seen as a gradual increase in cortical arousal across the menstrual cycle. The division of data into smoking groups indicated that this pattern was maintained in both non-smokers and light smokers but not among the heavy smokers who showed significantly lower CFFTs ( $P 0.05$ ). A possible depressant effect of nicotine is discussed and the relationship of the present results to changes in smoking patterns during the menstrual cycle considered.

2021546655